

Filed for intro on 02/12/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 55
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann
of Coffee County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann, who served in the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Tennessee for over thirty years and was a devoted community leader; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Coffee County, Mrs. Brinkmann was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously in numerous capacities to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the only child of the late Bert and Mary Gray Lee, Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann was born and raised in Bedford County; after graduating from Bell Buckle High School, she earned a bachelor of science degree in General Home Economics from Lipscomb University in 1969 and a master of science degree in Extension Education from the University of Tennessee in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brinkmann served with acumen and alacrity as an employee of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service from New Year's Day of 1970 until her untimely death on October 13, 2000; in this important position, she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, before transferring to the Central District Office on April 1, 1999, Mrs. Brinkmann spent the first twenty-nine years of her career as the 4-H Family and Consumer Science Agent for Coffee County; after the transfer, she served as Acting Assistant Program Leader for all Family and Consumer Science programs for her district; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable contributor to her profession, Mrs. Brinkmann received numerous awards for her estimable service, including the Vernon Darter Award, the National Association of Home Economists' Distinguished Service Award, the E.J. Chapman Travel Study Scholarship, and several state awards for her 4-H News column and Photo News stories; she was also honored with membership in the Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Delta Kappa Education Honor Fraternity, and the State Young Farmers and Homemakers Association's Order of the Golden Rule; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann shared her considerable experience and valuable knowledge with the greater agricultural community through her service as a member of the Tennessee 4-H Alumni Executive Board, a member of the District III Extension Home Economists, District Director of the Tennessee Association of 4-H Workers, and as President of the Business and Professional Women's Association of Manchester; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many professional contributions to her community, Mrs. Brinkmann was actively involved with the Tullahoma Housing Authority, Middle Tennessee Care Committee, Tri-County Choices Committee, and the outfitting of the Tennessee Bicentennial Time Capsule; she additionally taught an educational program on teen sexuality, served as chair of the Manchester Old Timers Day Baby and Beauty Pageants, and, in 1990, helped establish the Rotary-4-H Funnel Cake Booth at the Coffee County Fair; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brinkmann was well-known and highly respected among the political community of Tennessee; she was the only Extension Agent to serve on Vice President Al Gore's National Family Reunion Coalition and, for the past several years, she had coordinated and prepared the Congressional Reception for Tennessee Legislators during the 4-H Congress; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, Mrs. Brinkmann was a member of the Main Street Church of Christ, which she served faithfully for nearly twenty years as a Sunday School teacher; she was also greatly involved in the charitable work of the Associated Ladies for Lipscomb; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brinkmann enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Robert G. Brinkmann; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann worked tirelessly to assist the youth of Tennessee to achieve their best through the application of the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better"; she leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mary Jo Lee Brinkmann, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction as an energetic community leader and saluting her thirty years of meritorious service to the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Brinkmann.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.